

Dominic In Darkness: Rising From Ashes

An Honors Thesis (HONR 499)

by

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Thesis Advisor

Duane Karna

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Duane Karna', with a stylized, cursive script.

**Ball State University
Muncie, Indiana**

May 2014

Expected Date of Graduation

May 2014

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Abstract

I have been writing songs for the past year or so about the tensions in my life, my struggles to overcome adversities, and my quest for direction as a graduating college student. I drew inspiration from the experiences and soul searching of the past several years of my college life, during which I have had a reconversion and fallen in love with my faith, struggled to overcome an addiction, figured out who I am, and found peace in my life. The purpose was to create a collection of songs, drawing from personal experiences, based around the concept of finding peace and purpose in the midst of failures. This project is about a journey. Each song follows the protagonist along the next step of the journey. The protagonist represents everyone who is lost, searching for purpose or identity, or struggling to overcome addictions or other hurdles in his or her life. Most likely, this would be college students and young adults who are trying to figure out who they are as they transition into adulthood. I completed the project by a performance of all eleven original songs, included on a CD.